

# SEED CONNECTION

Washington State Department of Agriculture, Seed Program  
Yakima, Washington



## From the Desk of Victor Shaul

WSDA Seed Program Manager



As harvest finally gets underway and seed starts to be conditioned, it will be planting time before we know it. This season is shaping up to be challenging for all, considering the large storms that recently hit Eastern Washington. The field inspectors are at the height of their season, the analysts in the lab are gearing up for a busy season and the office staff never seems to slow down, all with the intent of serving the seed industry's needs.

The range of services offered at the Seed Program are quite comprehensive, ranging from seed analysis, phytosanitary inspections and certificates, to seed certification and all that is included in that process. But there are many other activities that take place behind the scenes that contribute to a quality program. Our seed analysts participate in proficiency testing and continued education, serving on committees that conduct research and referees for seed testing. Program staff represents the interests of the seed industry at national, regional, and local meetings. The phytosanitary program is constantly evolving to assist in the marketing of your seed. Many activities require licensing that requires retraining and periodic re-testing. New programs and rules are developed such as the Quality Timothy Program or the Brassica Production Districts. We serve as a conduit to other state's departments of agriculture and certification offices. Acquiring and maintaining two accreditation programs was a monumental undertaking and has led to more

## Lewis Flax is now Blue Flax

Due to recent scientific research it has been determined that Appar Lewis flax *Linum lewisii* was mistakenly identified as Lewis flax. It is really Blue flax *Linum perenne*. Currently Appar is the only variety that this applies to.

consistent inspections and testing. And as always, every Seed Program employee is always willing and able to tackle any problem that may occur.

All of these efforts are necessary in order to move the Program and the seed industry forward and all contribute to your bottom line. However, they also take experience, dedication, effort, and most of all financial resources. As my Dad always used to say, "This apple has to pay for everything." He was in the fruit industry and his point was that every apple had to pay for everything it took to get it to market. So when you buy a purity test, phyto certificate, or field inspection, remember that you are paying for much more than that individual service. You are also investing in the advancement of your own industry.

I hope everyone has a safe and bountiful harvest and that fall planting goes well.

Victor

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## Canadian Grading

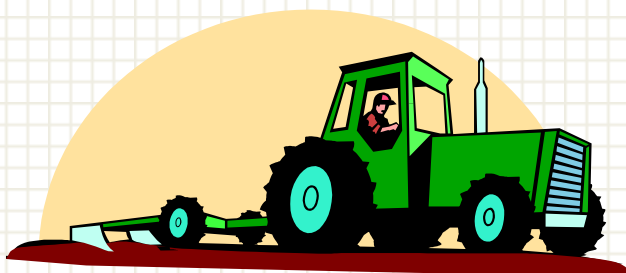
We are pleased to announce that we are now recognized by the Canadian Government as a Foreign Seed Testing Lab, for use of the Canadian Methods & Procedures for Testing Seed. This recognition, along with accreditation from USDA as a Processed Verified Accredited Seed Laboratory and USDA grader accreditation, will allow Seed Program customers to ship seed directly to Canada with a Grading Report, thus eliminating the need for additional testing. Why obtain a grade report prior to export? The grade report provides information concerning pedigree / certification status.

- The grade report provides information concerning the quality of the seed.
- The issuance of a grade report facilitates the entry into Canada.
- Seed can move directly into commerce in Canada, therefore duplicate testing will be eliminated.

If you would like further information on this please contact our office!

### AOSA Rule Change

At the 2012 AOSA / SCST meeting a rule change was adopted that requires dormant seed testing of firm un-germinated seeds at the end of the germination period, for all species with the exception of some agronomic crops. This rule change becomes effective October 1, 2012.



### What is the TZ test?

The TZ test estimates seed viability. Prepared seeds are preconditioned in a solution cut or pierced and placed in 2,3,5 triphenyl tetrazolium chloride and held at a specific temperature for a specified period of time. In the living tissues of the seeds, active enzymes convert the TTC chemical to formazan, an insoluble red dye that stains the living tissues red. The reaction takes from a few hours to one or two days, depending on the type of seed and other factors. If the seed is alive and free from detrimental defects the seed is considered viable.

But did you know that there are certain crops that require a 3 Day TZ? This means that the process takes 3 days versus the average 2 days that we would need for other crops.

In order to do a 3 Day TZ, we need to have received your sample no later than Wednesday at noon of that week or you will have to wait until the following Wednesday for results.

Here is a partial list of some species that require a 3 Day TZ:

Alkaligrass, Arugula, Balsamroot, Bentgrass, Bermudagrass, Bitterbrush, Bluestems, Buckwheat, Burnet, Canola, Carrot, Choke Cherry, Cliffrose, Dill, Dropseed, Flower & Herb seeds, Indian Ricegrass, Kale, Kochia, Mallow, Mustards, all Needlegrass, Penstemon, Plantain, Prairie Sandreed, Rapeseed, Redtop, Rush, Sage, Sagebrush, Sainfoin, Saltbush, Saltgrass, Sunflower, Switchgrass & Yarrow.

Please be sure to keep this in mind when submitting your sample for testing.



## New Numbers Coming To a Field Near you!

1234-D-56...789-RF-0...111-MG-23 These are examples of our current field numbering system. Confused? You are not alone, so we are changing it! Beginning this year, we will be implementing our new field numbering system. Here is an example of how it will look:

### 12-0001-1234

12 – This is the year planted – for perennial fields this number will stay with the field during its life

0001 – This the consecutive number in which this application was received during that planting year

1234 – This is your associate number, if the field switches to a different applicant, we will simply add the new associate number to the end of the field number, ex., 12-0001-1234-456

This change will simplify the process, be more efficient and improve staff productivity.

We are hoping that this will help eliminate any confusion and simplify things for everyone. Any feedback is greatly appreciated as we are always looking for ways to improve service and keep up with the changing times.

## Notice of Receipt

For those of you who have been receiving a “Notice of Receipt of Application” in the mail for the perennial field renewals, you will no longer receive a paper copy of this. These will now be sent out by e-mail utilizing Pure Harvest. Please be sure to keep us updated on any contact information as it changes so that we can ensure that we send these to the right recipient.

## A Change in the Seed Program

After nine years with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Dr. Fawad Shah has resigned from his position as the Grain & Seed Administrator and taken the role of Director at the USDA Seed Regulatory & Testing Branch in Gastonia, North Carolina as of April. We wish him the best of luck & he will be missed! Stan Tufts will be filling Fawad's position, we welcome him aboard!

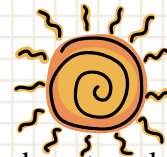


## Our Seed Program Family



*Back Row: Ramona Vickers, Maryanne Tegen, Elissa Romero, DJ Zanolli, Kristie Seward, Karen Pruitt, Larry Krueger & Danny Jones  
Middle Row: Jayne Beauchene, Amy Benfiet, Carmela Martinez, Terri Cox, Victor Shaul, Gary Slagg & Clint Sams  
Front Row: Amanda Boehler, Nancy Jones, Karen Dougherty, Chris Norvell, Sara Gray & Linda Rainey  
Not pictured: Debra Bloomer, Steve DeGroot*

### *Beat the Heat & Stay Safe in the Sun*



\* Dress for the heat. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella.

\* Drink water. Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar. These actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.

\* Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid high-protein foods, which increase metabolic heat.

Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. \* Stay indoors when possible. If air-conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine.

Remember that electric fans do not cool, they simply circulate the air. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

\* Be a good neighbor. During heat waves, check in on elderly residents in your neighborhood and those who do not have air conditioning

Remember that those who do not normally work outside might be just as vulnerable to the heat as children and older adults since they are less accustomed to it. Remember to take several breaks and keep an eye on those around you for signs of a heat-related illness.

## Meet Our Friendly Field Inspectors



Left to Right: Danny Jones, Larry Krueger, Steve DeGrood, Clint Sams & Gary Slagg

*"Always be OUTSTANDING  
in your field."—Larry Krueger*

Our WSDA field inspectors travel all over the state inspecting fields and sampling seed. Accurate maps and GPS coordinates are critical to their travels. With fuel being so expensive, ending up at the wrong field is costly both with time and money. Please help us be more efficient by providing accurate maps and GPS coordinates with all of your field applications.

Link to the current acreage report:

<http://agr.wa.gov/Inspection/SeedInspection/docs/JuneAcreageReport2012.pdf>

This report is updated several times during the season.

Please send your  
newsletter comments  
& suggestions to  
Amanda Boehler at  
[aboehler@agr.wa.gov](mailto:aboehler@agr.wa.gov)

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

<http://agr.wa.gov/inspection/seedinspection/>

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WSDA Seed Program – ISO 9001–2008 Certified, USDA Process Verified Accredited Seed Laboratory,  
Recognized by the Canadian Government as a Foreign Seed Testing Laboratory for use of the  
Canadian Methods and Procedures for Testing Seed

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